

### IN THE CLAIMS

21. (New) An apparatus for quantitatively evaluating image quality characteristics of an ultrasound scanner, comprising:

(a) a processor; and  
(b) computer software operative on the processor for performing the steps of:

- (1) selecting a phantom test object within an image;
- (2) quantitative processing of said image to evaluate image quality characteristics of the scanner for diagnostic purposes; and
- (3) outputting results of the quantitative processing.

### REMARKS

Applicant has added a new apparatus claim 21 similar to method claim 6. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to include this claim in the application and consider it. Applicant believes that for the reasons stated in the Amendment and Response filed by Applicant on October 3, 1996, the new claim is allowable over the prior art of record. Consequently, a Notice of Allowance in this case should include new claim 21.